

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

LINER, ERNEST A. 1983. *Tantilla wilcoxi*.

***Tantilla wilcoxi* Stejneger**  
**Chihuahuan blackheaded snake**

*Tantilla wilcoxi* Stejneger, 1902:156-157. Type-locality, "Fort Huachuca, Arizona." Holotype, U.S. Nat. Mus. 19674, juvenile male, collected by Timothy E. Wilcox, M.D., in 1892 (not examined by author).

*Homalocranium wilcoxi*: Phisalix, 1922:322.

*Tantilla wilcoxi wilcoxi*: Smith, 1942:40.

*Tantilla wilcoxi rubricata* Smith, 1942:40-41. Type-locality "15 miles southeast of Galeana, Nuevo Leon." Cochran (1961) corrected the type-locality from southeast to west of Galeana. Holotype, U.S. Nat. Mus. 110399, adult male, collected by Hobart M. Smith on October 13, 1939 (not examined by author).

• **CONTENT.** No subspecies are recognized by Cole and Hardy (1981).

• **DEFINITION.** A species of *Tantilla* characterized by a distinct black or dark brown head cap extending posteriorly to end abruptly near the tips of the parietals, thence downward to or below the corner of the mouth, including parts of the 6th and 7th supralabials. A broad white collar 2 scales wide lies behind the black head cap and crosses the posterior tips of the parietals. The white collar is bordered posteriorly by a black band or spots  $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$  scales wide which, on occasion, may separate the white collar and join with the black head cap. Ventrals number 140-164; subcaudals, 51-69. There are 15 rows of smooth dorsal scales throughout. The anal is divided. The body is normally pale or dark brown, gray, or olive-green above and dull white below anteriorly becoming red to orange toward the posterior two-thirds (the latter colors fade to white in preservative). Head scales are as follows: 1 rostral; 2 internasals; 2 prefrontals; 1 frontal; 2 supraoculars; 2 parietals; 1 preocular, in contact with posterior nasal; no loreal; 2 postoculars; 6-7 supralabials; 6-7 infralabials (first pair may separate the chinshields from mental); 2 elongate temporals, the anterior in contact with postoculars. Length to 355 mm.

• **DESCRIPTIONS.** Full or partial descriptions have appeared in Stejneger (1902), Van Denburgh and Slevin (1913), Barbour (1916), Van Denburgh (1922), Ditmars (1936, 1943), Blanchard (1938), Taylor and Knobloch (1940), Smith (1942, 1943), Woodin (1953), Stebbins (1954, 1966), Webb and Hensley (1959), McCoy (1964a, b), Fowlie (1965), Conant (1965), Cochran and Goin (1970), Leviton (1972), Shaw and Campbell (1974), McDiarmid et al. (1976), Behler and King (1979), Cole and Hardy (1981), Ransom (1981), and Smith and Brodie (1982). Cole and Hardy (1981) described the hemipenis.

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Line drawings of the head are in Blanchard (1947), Stebbins (1954, 1966), Blair et al. (1968), Behler and King (1979), Cole and Hardy (1981), and Ransom (1981). A line drawing of the head in color is in Smith and Brodie (1982). Shaw and Campbell (1974) presented a color photograph of the head. The whole snake is illustrated in black and white in Fowlie (1965).

• **DISTRIBUTION.** This primarily Mexican species barely enters the United States in extreme southern Arizona, where it occurs in the Huachuca, Patagonia, and Santa Rita mountains and as far north as Fort McDowell, Maricopa County. In Mexico the species occurs at scattered localities in southwestern Chihuahua, northeastern Sinaloa, central Durango, Zacatecas, western San Luis Potosi, southeastern Coahuila, and southern Nuevo Leon at elevations from 914 to 2438 meters.

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** Most comment on this little-known snake has been in checklists (Stejneger and Barbour, 1943; Smith and Taylor, 1945; Wright and Wright, 1952; Schmidt 1953), keys (Perkins, 1940; Smith and Taylor, 1945; Blanchard, 1947; Savage,

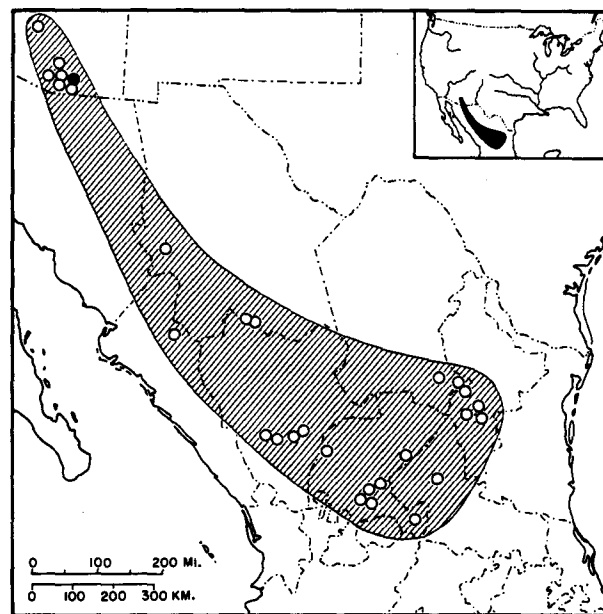
1949; Wilson, 1982), including other keys in more general works (Pope, 1937; Blair et al., 1968), field books (Schmidt and Davis, 1941; Ditmars, 1943; Stebbins, 1966; Cochran and Goin, 1970; Behler and King, 1979; Ransom, 1981), and in state or area lists (Slevin, 1934; Bogert and Oliver, 1945; Taylor, 1949; Martin del Campo, 1953; Lowe, 1964). Additional general works include Van Denburgh (1922), Ditmars (1936), Curran and Kauffeld (1937), Stebbins (1954), Wright and Wright (1957), Harrison (1971), Leviton (1972), and Shaw and Campbell (1974). Casual data appear in Smith (1941, 1944), Taylor and Smith (1945), and McCoy (1964a, b). A bibliography can be found in Smith and Smith (1976). Van Denburgh and Slevin (1913) and Van Denburgh (1922) mentioned removing a specimen from the gut of a *Diadophis regalis*. Food habits are described by Fowlie (1965), Shaw and Campbell (1974), and Behler and King (1979). Behler and King (1979) state that it lays from 1 to 3 eggs. The venomous properties were noted by Phisalix (1922). Morafka (1977) studied the species' distribution in the Chihuahuan Desert. Partial range maps are in Stebbins (1954, 1966), Wright and Wright (1957), Fowlie (1965), Shaw and Campbell (1974), Morafka (1977), Behler and King (1979), and Smith and Brodie (1982). Range extensions are in Taylor and Knobloch (1940), Smith (1942), Webb and Hensley (1959), McCoy (1964b), Conant (1965), and McDiarmid et al. (1976). The locations of the type material are in Taylor (1944), Smith and Taylor (1950), Cochran (1961), and Marx (1976).

• **REMARKS.** I observed a specimen of *T. wilcoxi* being engulfed by a *Hypsiglena torquata texana* in the collecting bag. Specimens collected by myself and associates were found either in grassy areas under rocks or under rocks on a barren hillside.

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The specific name is a patronym for the collector, Dr. Timothy E. Wilcox, M.D.

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MAP. Solid circle indicates the type locality; hollow circles other localities.

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